

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-02 SP-03 SWF-02

AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00

OIC-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 CEA-02

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 DRC-01 /190 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB XIV: REPORT OF FIRST WEEK OF SESSION

SUMMARY: TDB PLENARY OPENED ON TUES AUG 20 WITH OPENING STATEMENT BY COREA. FIRST POINT OF SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS WAS G-77 PROPOSAL TO ADD NEW ITEM TO AGENDA ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM OF ACTION WHICH WAS ACCEPTED. DELEGATION GENERAL STATEMENTS IN PLENARY ARE TWO THIRDS COMPLETED. WORK OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I REORGANIZED TO BRING TOGETHER ALL COMMODITY ITEMS. TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FIRST ITEM TAKEN UP BY SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I (REPORTED SEPTEL). SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II BEGUN WITHOUT EVENT. SPEECHES OF PRINCIPAL DELEGATIONS AND US DEL BEING POUCHED. END SUMMARY.

1. COREA DELIVERED OPENING ADDRESS AUG 20. SPEECH NO SURPRISE AS CONTAINED SUBSTANCE OF DOC TD/B(XIV)/MISC.3. GREATEST EMPHASIS IN SPEECH PLACED ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR "AN OVER-ALL INTERGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES" AS DETAILED IN DOC TD/B/498. ALSO POINTED TO GROWING IMPORTANCE OF INTRA-LDC RELATIONSHIPS WHICH SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED. SUGGESTED INSTITUTION TO AID TRANSFER OF OIL
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EXPORTERS BALANCE OF PAYMENT SURPLUSES FOR DEVELOPMENT.

2. AGENDA ITEM 4 ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONFERENCE SEPARATED INTO TWO SUB-ITEMS, WITH 4(B) TO DEAL ONLY WITH DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM. NEW SUB-ITEM ADDED BECAUSE LDCS FEARED THAT GROUP B WOULD PROCEDURALLY BLOCK RESOLUTIONS ON DECLARATION AND ACTION PROGRAM UNLESS NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE MADE TO THEM IN AGENDA.

3. WORK OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I REORGANIZED TO BRING TOGETHER ALL COMODITY ITEMS FOR CONSECUTIVE CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF ITEMS. WORK ON COMMODITIES TO BEGIN AUG 29.

4. SPEECHES IN PLENARY BY MOST GROUP B MEMBERS (CANADA, JAPAN, UK, US, AUSTRALIA, FRG, SWITZERLAND) HAVE STRUCK SIMILAR THEMES:

- A) ENORMOUS STRESSES OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION;
- B) INTERDEPENDENCE AND NEED FOR COOPERATION BY ALL COUNTRIES IN SOLVING PROBLEMS;
- C) CONCERN FOR LDCS, PARTICULARLY MSAS; NEED FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR MSAS;
- D) REGRET OVER CONTENTIOUS ATMOSPHERE OF SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION AND REAFFIRMATION OF RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED IN NEW YORK, BUT RECOGNITION THAT RESOLUTIONS OF SPECIAL SESSION OUTLINE CONCERN OF LDCS WHICH DESERVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION;
- E) IMPORTANCE OF COMMODITY ISSUES, BUT SKEPTICISM TOWARD SECGENS PROPOSALS FOR INTEGRATED COMMODITY AND PRODUCER INTERESTS IN ANY INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PROGRAM; COMPLAINT THAT PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION, BUT FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES NEXT FEB.
- F) BENEFITS ACHIEVED FOR CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH OF INTENSIVE AD HOC CONSULTATIONS IN CLARIFYING PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES;
- G) BENEFITS EXPECTED TO ACCRUE TO LDCS IN MTN.

5. SWEDEN, NETHERLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND ASSUMED DIFFERENT UNCLASSIFIED

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POSTURE FROM OTHER GROUP B MEMBERS WHO SPOKE, BY ENDORSING DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, BY SUPPORTING SECGENS PROPOSALS FOR INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM (NEW ZEALAND QUALIFIED SUPPORT BY STATING PROPOSALS NEED FURTHER EXAMINATION) AND BY GENERALLY PRAISING FUNCTIONING OF UNCTAD.

6. EC REP ALSO SPOKE, STATING MAIN ACHIEVEMENT OF UNCTAD

HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTATION OF GSP. BRIEFLY WXPLAINED EC/ACP SCHEME. URGED ALL DELEGATIONS TO BRING TO FIELD OF COMMODITIES THE SAME POLITICAL WILL WHICH ACHIVED RESULTS IN GSP. IF CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT APPROACH TO COMMODITIES WERE PRODUCED, UNCTAD IV COULD LAUNCH A NEW COMMODITY PROGRAM TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING SECOND HALF OF DEVELOPMENT DECADE. SUPPORT INDICATED FOR SECGENS PROPOSALS FOR UNCTAD IV: CONCENTRATION ON LIMITED NUMBER OF WELL-DEFINED PROBLEMS WHICH ARE MATURE FOR SETTLEMENT OR FURTHER DIRECTIVES, AND SHORTENED SESSION.

7 MAJOR LDC THEMES:

- 1) UNCTAD SHOULD FOLLOW-UP ON SPECIAL UNGA DECLARATION ON NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND PROGRAM OF ACTION WITH CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN ITS AREA OF COMPETENCE.
- 2) TDB SHOULD REVIEW CURRENT SECRETARIAT FUNCTIONS TO ENABLE IT TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THE NEW CHALLENGES.
- 3) SECGEN COREA'S PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED; ONLY MILDLY DISCORDANT NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION WAS NIGERIA'S CRITICISM OF THE SECGEN'S REPORT WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED RECENT LDC COMMODITY EXPORT PRICE LEVELS AS A "BOOM." NIGERIA CONTEDED PRICES WERE ONLY NOW REACHING APPROPRIATE AND JUST LEVELS.
- 4) INTRA-LDC ECONOMIC COOPERATION SHOULD BE EXPANDED. IN THIS CONNECTION SRI LANKA AND PAKISTAN CALLED ATTENTION TO ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF NEW "AFFLUENT" LDCS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.
- 5) UNCTAD SECRETARIAT SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LDCS ON MTN. NIGERIA SAW "DISCOURAGING" PROSPECTS FOR MTN, WHILE SRI LANKA CALLED PROSPECTS "BRIGHT."
- 6) SEVERAL DELEGATES SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES, BUT MEXICO SPOKE OF SIGNIFICANT ROLE CHARTER WOULD HAVE IN ACHIEVING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

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ECONOMIC ORDER.

8. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES: PRC AND USSR TRADED INSULTS AND PRC INCLUDED THE "CAPITALIST SUPERPOWER" IN LIST OF VILLAINS. USSR AND OTHER BLOC COUNTRIES CITED PAST AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF DETENTE FOR WORLD ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WHILE HOLDING CAPITALIST COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT CRISIS SITUATION. BULGARIA, POLAND PRAISED THIRTY YEARS OF SOCIALIST ACHIEVEMENTS IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

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